



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - April 22, 2003

- ***In the West***, a developing storm system is maintaining unsettled conditions across the ***northern two-thirds of the region***. The showery weather is slowing fieldwork in ***California*** and elsewhere, but providing the ***Intermountain West*** with additional drought relief.
- ***On the Plains***, recent soil moisture improvements across ***northern and central parts of the region*** continue to benefit winter wheat, despite underlying long-term drought. Meanwhile in ***Texas***, where topsoil moisture shortages are stressing winter wheat and emerging summer crops, beneficial showers are developing.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, cool, showery weather lingers across the ***lower Great Lakes region***, further slowing winter wheat development. Elsewhere in the ***Midwest***, mild, dry weather favors initial corn planting and other spring fieldwork, following recent beneficial precipitation.
- ***In the South***, warm, dry weather continues to promote summer crop planting, emergence, and development.

Outlook: For the remainder of the week, a developing storm system will move slowly eastward from the ***central Rockies***, producing a large area of locally heavy rain from the ***central Plains to the central Gulf Coast***. Meanwhile, cool, dry weather will prevail in the ***Midwestern, Mid-Atlantic, and Southeastern States***, while periods of rain and snow will continue across the ***Northeast***. Elsewhere, dry weather will be replaced by a chance of showers in the ***Pacific Coast States*** due to the approach of another cold front, while dry conditions will persist in the ***Southwest***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for April 27 - May 1 calls for above-normal precipitation in the ***Great Basin, northern and central portions of the Rockies and Plains, western Corn Belt, and eastern Gulf Coast region***. Meanwhile, below-normal precipitation is forecast across ***southern parts of the Rockies and Plains, Tennessee and Ohio Valleys, and Mid-Atlantic States***. Above-normal temperatures are likely in ***Florida*** and from the ***Rio Grande Valley northeastward into the Great Lakes region***, while cooler-than-normal weather is forecast in the ***West*** and across ***northern New England***.

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